

“It is our responsibility to take steps now to ensure the quality of our environment for the future.”

We have inherited a wonderful legacy of people and diverse culture, as well as bountiful and beautiful natural resources. As a lifelong Washington resident and former head of Washington’s Department of Ecology, I am acutely aware of the need to protect our natural environment.

I also know that in the face of diminished financial resources and greater demands on our natural resources, it will be important to focus on the most critical issues.

My Budget for Protecting Our Natural Resources

1 Cleans up pollution and toxics. We must be vigilant to keep harmful, toxic substances out of our air, water and land. My plan funds multiple strategies for cleaning up Hood Canal, which is so polluted that aquatic life can’t survive.

And I’m funding multiple efforts by the Department of Ecology to clean up polluted areas and to reduce the amount of waste and toxic materials that enter our environment and threaten our health.

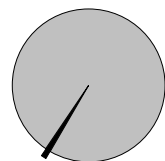
2 Preserves our quality of life. Our special Northwest lifestyle is very connected to our miles of open spaces, habitat for fish and wildlife, and parks for the active people who live here.

I support additional habitat acquisition for fish and wildlife, and will work to develop our local parks and upgrade our existing park system.

3 Secures our water resources. My plan addresses the diverse and persistent water resource needs within our state.

By funding programs that reduce the impacts of drought and prevent water shortages, my plan can create jobs and spur economic growth in Eastern Washington over the next 20 years.

The Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation budget is \$318 million, about 1% of the State General Fund



The Governor's Budget for Natural Resources

Clean up pollutions and toxics	<p>Restores Hood Canal. A multi-pronged approach will reverse low-dissolved oxygen levels and nutrient flows into the canal, both of which kill aquatic life. The plan includes a \$1 million grant to design wastewater treatment facilities to serve the area of the canal from Hoodspport to the Skokomish River. Grants to Mason, Jefferson and Kitsap counties will help identify failing septic systems and develop a stormwater plan for Belfair and Hoodspport. A \$1 million loan program will help homeowners correct failing septic systems. A new septic system will be installed at Dosewallips State Park and new pollution abatement ponds are provided for the Hoodspport hatchery. <i>\$4.4 million Capital Budget, \$600,000 other funds</i></p> <p>Cleans up toxics. The Department of Ecology launches action plans to reduce and eliminate Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) and other persistent bioaccumulative toxics (PBTs) in the air, land and waters. New funding of \$24 million is provided to help Ecology and local governments clean up high-priority toxic sites. Other new grants include \$2.5 million to clean up contaminated soils at schools, \$3 million to reduce diesel toxics from publicly owned buses, and \$10 million for small cities to meet new stormwater guidelines. <i>\$57.5 million Capital Budget, \$25.4 million other funds</i></p> <p>Helps businesses reduce waste. To help businesses reduce costs, The Department of Ecology will implement programs to reduce toxics generation and energy usage, encourage composting, and promote green building practices. These programs will help businesses redesign products and processes to reduce the use and cost of toxic material and waste handling, while increasing profits and competitiveness. <i>\$6 million Capital Budget, \$3.4 million other funds</i></p>
Preserve our quality of life	<p>Safeguards habitat and parks. Fish and wildlife habitat will be protected and local parks supported through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. <i>\$45 million Capital Budget</i></p> <p>Prepares for the State Parks Centennial. The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has developed a plan to improve existing parks with needed upgrades and renovation, as well as potentially add new parks to celebrate the state parks system's 100-year anniversary in 2013. <i>\$30 million Capital Budget</i></p>
Secure our water resources	<p>Eases drought impacts. Facing the worst drought since 1977, the Governor issued a drought declaration for Washington State on March 10 that enables the Department of Ecology to issue emergency drought permits and expedite temporary water-rights transfers to reduce drought effects. Funding is provided for water acquisition and mitigation projects to reduce drought impacts on irrigators, municipalities and fish populations. <i>\$9 million Capital Budget, \$3 million other funds</i></p> <p>Manages our water. The Columbia River Initiative is the first step towards adopting a new water management program to promote economic growth and community development goals, while also improving the river ecosystem. This investment will help develop multipurpose storage projects, acquire water and implement new and future water agreements to make water available for future needs along the river. A University of Washington economic study shows the increased water use made possible by this program would generate annual benefits of \$420 million and up to 9,000 new jobs in the Eastern Washington economy. <i>\$1 million GF-State, \$17 million Capital Budget</i></p>